

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2006

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Senator Scott Praises Funding Increases for Seniors and Youth

LANSING – State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) today praised passage of Senate Bill 1090, the Department of Human Services appropriations bill, which included amendments to increase funding for Michigan's Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly (Mi-CAFÉ), a food assistance program for seniors, and a \$2 million allocation for the Wayne County juvenile justice program. A third amendment to increase payment to providers who assist runaway and homeless youth was opposed, but a “placeholder” will keep discussions alive for a later budget determination.

“I’m pleased to see that my colleagues recognize the importance of protecting these two vulnerable groups of individuals,” Sen. Scott said. “We are talking about groceries for people who often cannot afford them and help for families who might not otherwise be able to stay together. What greater need?”

The first amendment will increase funding by \$20,000 to \$70,000 for Mi-CAFE, which offers bridge cards to seniors 60 years of age and older to help with purchasing food. These funds are matched dollar for dollar by federal funding.

The second bipartisan amendment will give \$2,000,000 in DHS Child & Family Services money to Wayne County for use in its juvenile justice program. The money is part of funding designated for family preservation programs. The nationally recognized Wayne County Juvenile Justice program was established several years ago and has saved the state millions of dollars.

A fourth amendment introduced by Sen. Scott put a placeholder in the DHS budget for additional administrative funding for the Children's Trust Fund (CTF). The CTF is the only statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. While the program is housed within the Department of Human Services, it uses no state money. Due to the MI income tax check-off option that was recently approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor, the CTF will require additional staff and funding to assist in implementation of 72 local councils.

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